MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

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$2.00

CLEARING
High: 64
Low: 44
20% chance of rain

Tuesday: Cloudy, 64/44
Wednesday: Cloudy, 62/43
Thursday: Cloudy, 67/48

Details on the back of **Metro**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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LIVING, D1
WHY KIDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT WRITING LETTERS

SPORTS, C1
WHAT FALCONS SHOWED US IN VICTORY OVER COWBOYS

METRO, B1
HOW GA. LAWMAKER WANTS TO CHANGE RUNOFF RULES

IMMIGRATION

Visa lottery draws scrutiny in Georgia

Banji Oyebisi immigrated to Georgia from Nigeria in 1996 and worked his way up from washing dishes to employing four people at his own technology consulting business in Sandy Springs. He is holding the suitcase that he brought with him with his belongings 21 years ago. JOHN AMIS / SPECIAL TO THE AJC

Senator, president seek to scrap it after N.Y. attack.

By Jeremy Redmon
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and Tamar Hallerman
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Banji Oyebisi felt a heavy weight lift off his shoulders when he learned he had won America's diversity visa lottery. His native Nigeria beset with political upheaval and violence, Oyebisi immigrated to Georgia in 1996 and worked his way up from washing dishes to employing four people at his own technology consulting business in Sandy Springs.

The program that brought Oyebisi to America is now drawing intense scrutiny following a truck attack that killed eight people on a New York City bike trail on Halloween. The 29-year-old Uzbekistani immigrant accused of mowing the people down came to the U.S. seven years ago on a diversity visa.

President Donald Trump is calling for the visa lottery to be scrapped in the wake of the massacre, citing security concerns.

"Diversity lottery – sounds nice, it's not nice," the president told reporters this month, calling the suspect in the attack – Sayfullo Saipov – an "animal." "It's not good. It hasn't been good. We've been against it."

But proponents of the program say it upholds America's melting pot ethos while boosting this nation's standing in the world. Its critics, they say, are unfairly painting diversity visa recipients with a broad brush and overlooking the contributions Oyebisi and others are making here.

Visa lottery continued on **A9**

HEALTH CARE

Some Georgia school retirees' premiums spike

Resolution passed in 2011 reduced subsidies, but most had no idea.

By James Salzer
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Chuck Trader decided to become a middle-school math teacher in 2007 after years in corporate finance, in part because he believed that as an educator, he'd be able to retire in his early 60s with good, affordable, state-subsidized health insurance.

When he retired 10 years later he found out he was wrong. Very wrong.

His family's State Health Benefit Plan coverage nearly tripled, and his $1,678 a month premium is almost double the $870 pension check he receives for his decade in the classroom.

He and other newly retired school employees have spent the past few months trying to find out why their coverage shot up, and they are pointing the finger at a little-noted Department of Community Health board resolution approved a few weeks before Christmas 2011.

Retired teacher Chuck Trader is paying twice as much for health insurance as he gets from his state pension.

The resolution created a system that gave retirees – teachers, school staffers, state employees – insurance subsidies based on their years of service. Anyone with less than five years of service with the state or a school system on Jan. 1, 2012, would get relatively little subsidy after 10 years. But the subsidy would increase with more time working for the state

Retirees continued on **A9**

CHURCH SHOOTING

Alexander Osborn and Bella Araiza leave flowers at a makeshift memorial for the victims of the shooting at Sutherland Springs Baptist Church on Sunday. ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

After church massacre, town turns to prayer

Pastor whose daughter was killed leads service in Texas community.

By Peter Holley
Washington Post

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS — The sprawling white tent was already packed with hundreds of mourners Sunday, some of them spilling outside beneath an overcast sky, by the time Frank Pomeroy, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, took to the stage. He stood in front of a wooden cross wrapped in holiday lights.

At this moment a week earlier, with Pomeroy out of town, Devin Kelley entered the pastor's small white church and started shooting the members of Pomeroy's beloved congregation with an assault-style rifle. Twenty-six of them, including a pregnant woman's unborn child, would

Church continued on **A4**

CRIME & COURTS

Can't pay for a lie detector test? For one man, that could mean jail

Robert Murphy may go to prison for 18 months.

By Rhonda Cook
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RINGGOLD — A North Georgia homeless man may go to prison for 18 months because he cannot come up with $250 to take a court-ordered polygraph test.

Such a move would seem to violate a U.S. Supreme Court ruling declaring it unconstitutional to jail someone for failing to pay a fee or fine. But the man's attorney, McCracken Poston, said the state Department of Community Supervision is nonetheless pushing for the punishment.

"It's crazy," Poston told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, saying his client, Robert Murphy, has been unable to find a job since he was convicted of a sex offense and had recently been living under a bridge that spans the South Chickamauga Creek.

Advocates said that despite the high court ruling – which stemmed from a case out of Catoosa County more than three decades ago – poor people are still being jailed for failing to pay court-ordered fees.

Lie detector continued on **A8**

SPORTS, C1
Bulldogs sure to fall in college playoff chase
Alabama is poised to take the top spot in the College Football Playoff rankings after Georgia's 40-17 loss to Auburn.

NATION & WORLD, A4
White House aide: Give Moore time for defense
Administration officials were cautious about the GOP Senate hopeful accused of pursuing teen girls when he was in his 30s.

METRO, B1
Transgender's murder in 1999 still a mystery
State investigators say new tests on crime scene evidence have failed to turn up suspects in the slaying in rural Wilcox County.

INDEX

Classifieds	D4	Crossword	D3
Comics	D6	Deaths	B5

Volume 69, Number 317